

## William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, December 3, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### W. C. C. CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, December 3, 1807.

*Dear Sir* , Your letter of the 17 of October was handed to me by Mr. Robertson, the Secretary for this Territory, whose appointment is to me the more satisfactory since so many of my old friends unite in representing him “as a Gentleman of worth and a true Republican.”

In compliance with your request, you have inclosed a copy of your letter of the 12th. of November, giving me inform[ation] of plans (either formed or forming) “inimical to the Union”, and advising the organization of the Militia and preparations for the defence of New-Orleans, “as well against internal as external enemies.” This letter was esteemed of such importance to our Country that I immediately transmitted a copy to the Executive of the United States; It was also seen by General Wilkinson (being convinced from my knowledge of your character that you would have no objections) and was for a short time in his possession, but he did not receive a *copy* from me, nor did I know that the General had *one* , until I saw it referred to on the trial of Burr.

No man can be more desirous than myself that the conspiracy should be thoroughly developed, and the agency of every individual concerned, explained and exposed; of the innocence or guilt of *General Wilkinson* , there seems to be a diversity of opinion; but for myself, I am free to declare that my impressions *are greatly in his favour* .

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I feel no hesitation in informing you the time when and the manner in which General W. advised me of the Conspiracy; it was by letter bearing date at Natchez the 12 of Nov. 1806, and which I received per Express in four days hereafter. Your communication did not reach me until the morning of the 5th. of Decr. and tended to confirm the statements which General Wilkinson had previously made me, as well verbally as in writing. I am persuaded you will not suppose that I did, either unnecessarily or improperly expose the contents of your communication; It reached me at an interesting crisis, and was only resorted to with a view to serve our Country and Gouvernement, to which I always beleived you to be ardently attached. . . . .